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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco 2, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 5, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 1----Among this week's fruit supply are a few Purple Guigne and Chapman cherries from the Sacramento area, and a light supply of cantaloups from the Imperial Valley.

The strawberries coming to market are showing the effects of rainy weather but can be considered a Fair Buy, along with higher-priced lemons.

In the Good Buy class this week are Valencia oranges and Winter Nelis pears.

Best Buys from the vegetable bin are dry onions and hothouse rhubarb from Washington.

Good Buys include carrots, cabbage, lettuce, and soft squash (summer and Italian).

Peas are a Fair Buy, but prices have advanced this week on cauliflower, asparagus, artichokes, and snap beans.

Meat --

Generally speaking, demand was fair for meat in the San Francisco wholesale market last week. In the beef division, there was a better distribution of loins. All beef held unchanged in price, while a slump in the demand for spring lamb resulted in incomplete clearance of supplies and a price drop of $2.00 per hundredweight on that class. Demand for fresh pork was somewhat irregular, but loins and butts advanced $2.00 per hundredweight, with some mid-western products priced even higher. There was practically no change on veal and calf.

Butter --

Butter prices have held unchanged in the wholesale market under a somewhat improved demand for top grades. Supplies are more than ample. Grades A&AA (1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 64-1/2 to 67 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, and Grade B(2nd Quality) is quoted at 63-1/2 to 64-1/2 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

MORE

Eggs --

Egg prices, too, are unchanged from a week ago under a moderate demand. Local production is at a peak for the season. Quotations to retailers are: Grade "A" Large, 42 to 43 cents per dozen in cartons; Grade "A" Mediums, 39 to 40 cents per dozen; and Grade "A" Smalls, 32 to 34 cents per dozen in cartons.

Poultry --

In the wholesale poultry market supplies of young chickens continue scarce. Resistance to higher prices has resulted in demand shifting somewhat to lower priced classes, such as hens and broilers. Breeder turkey hens have been coming to market in good volume. Prices have advanced 1-cent per pound from a week ago on all weights of dressed fryers and small Leghorn hens weighing under 4 pounds, and 2 cents per pound on Leghorn hens over 4 pounds. All other classes are unchanged.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 12, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9---- Best Buys among the vegetables this week are cabbage, lettuce, and dry onions.

Good Buys include asparagus, carrots, celery, peas and rhubarb.

Soft squash is a Fair Buy.

In the fruit department Valencia oranges and Winter Nelis pears can still be considered Good Buys.

Sunshine in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys has been ripening cherries (Purple Guigne, Chapman, Tartarian, Burbank) at a more rapid rate so that they can be considered a Fair Buy this week, along with strawberries.

Supplies of Imperial Valley cantaloups are becoming heavier, but prices are still high.

Meat

In the San Francisco wholesale market, last week's especially good demand for fresh pork and beef exceeded the available supply, resulting in price upturns. Steer beef advanced $1.00 per hundredweight, cow beef went up $2.00, and some cuts of beef, including loins, gained $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight. With a lighter supply of mid-western pork available, prices advanced $1.00 per hundredweight on fresh pork carcasses, $2.00 to $4.00 on loins, and $2.00 per hundredweight on fresh hams and spareribs. Cured pork products held unchanged in price, as did spring lamb, mutton, and veal.

MORE

Butter --

Although there is only a moderate demand for generous supplies of butter in the San Francisco wholesale market, prices are unchanged from a week ago. For the week ended May 4, sharp production increases in the three Pacific Coast states and Utah upped western production 7 percent above the previous week, and to a level 14 percent above a year ago. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) butter are quoted to retailers at 64-1/2 to 67 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, and Grade B(2nd Quality) is quoted at 63-1/2 to 64-1/2 cents.

Eggs --

With egg production at a peak and demand only moderate, surplus supplies of all grades are moving into storage. Prices, though, are unchanged from a week ago, with Grade "A" Large quoted to retailers at 42 to 43 cents per dozen in cartons, Grade "A" Mediums at 39 to 40 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls at 32 to 34 cents per dozen.

Poultry --

With the exception of roasters, all classes of poultry are in ample supply in the San Francisco wholesale market. Due to some price resistance on young chickens, demand has been best for broilers and hens. Prices have advanced 1-cent per pound on dressed small fryers, roasters, and all weights of Leghorn hens. All other classes are unchanged in price from a week ago.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 19, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16--- While there are no so-called "Best Buys" in fruit this week, strawberries and Valencia oranges are rated as Good Buys.

Cherries are a Fair Buy, including some Bings from Tulare county.

Imperial Valley cantaloups are still high-priced.

New arrivals in the market this week include Seedling apricots from Vacaville, and youngberries from Tulare county.

Among the vegetables the Best Buy line-up includes asparagus (lower-priced), cabbage, lettuce, dry onions (slightly higher), and tomatoes.

Good Buys this week are carrots, celery, peas, corn, and soft squash, followed by sweetpotatoes as a Fair Buy.

Meat --

With demand in excess of supply in the San Francisco wholesale meat market, prices are on an upward trend. Higher prices on live cattle and hogs are another factor involved in the price boosts. Good, Commercial and Utility grades of steer beef carcasses are all up $1.00 per hundredweight, while most beef cuts are selling $2.00 to $4.00 higher per hundredweight. Pork loins range from $3.00 to $8.00 per hundredweight higher than a week ago, butts and spareribs are up $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight, fresh hams are $1.00 higher, and all smoked ham and bacon is $2.00 per hundredweight higher. Lard, too, has advanced 50 cents to $1.00 per hundredweight. Lamb has been in less demand than beef and pork and has held unchanged in price, along with veal.

MORE

Butter --

Top grades of butter have been accumulating in the San Francisco wholesale market and prices have sagged 1/2-cent per pound since a week ago. Grades A&AA (1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 64 to 66-1/2 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) is unchanged at a quotation to retailers of 63-1/2 to 64-1/2 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Western butter production is considerably above last year -- 24 percent.

Eggs --

Egg prices are down slightly from a week ago on medium and small sizes. Supplies are fully ample at wholesale prices 13 cents per dozen lower than a year ago on Grade "A" Large, and 14 cents below a year ago on Grade "A" Mediums. Quotations to retailers are: Grade "A" Large, 42 to 43 cents per dozen in cartons; Grade "A" Medium, 38 to 40 cents; and Grade "A" Small, 31 to 33 cents.

Poultry --

Large broilers, fryers and roasters are a bit on the scarce side for demand. As a result, prices are up 1-cent per pound on dressed weights of those classes. Hens are in ample supply, with heavy Leghorns selling 1-cent per pound below a week ago. All weights of dressed tom turkeys are slightly higher at 38 to 40 cents per pound. At current prices, there has been some improvement in demand for rabbits, which are unchanged from a week ago at 54 to 55 cents per pound, dressed.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended May 26, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 23 ---- Fruits have been coming to market in greater variety, so that this week we have tagged as "Good Buys" youngberries and boysenberries from Tulare and Fresno counties, strawberries, Imperial Valley cantaloups, and Valencia oranges.

Cherries -- including Bings and Royal Annes from the Sacramento Valley -- are a Fair Buy, along with summer varieties of avocados (Carlsbad, Hass, Benik, Spinks, Itzamna).

The first Mayflower peaches have arrived in the market from Tulare county, as have the first Honeyball melons from the Imperial Valley. Other fruit items to be found in the market are Black Mission figs from Coachella Valley, raspberries from Santa Clara county, Seedling and Newcastle apricots, and watermelons from Imperial Valley.

Topping the list of Best Buys in vegetables this week are asparagus, tomatoes, and soft squash (Italian and summer), followed by cabbage, corn, and cucumbers.

In the Good Buy line-up are cauliflower, celery, eggplant, Bell peppers, new-crop potatoes, and carrots (slightly higher).

Okra and spinach are Fair Buys.

MORE

Meat --

Higher replacement costs on live cattle resulted in a light beef slaughter last week and a continued upward price trend in the San Francisco wholesale market. Steer and heifer beef advanced $2.00 per hundredweight, while cow beef gained $1.00. Most beef cuts went up $2.00 per hundredweight, while beef loins gained $4.00. Pork prices were higher, too. Carcasses advanced $1.00 per hundredweight, with fresh hams, picnics, butts, spareribs, and bacon all selling $2.00 per hundredweight higher. Demand failed to clear the lamb slaughter at unchanged prices. Ewe mutton dropped $2.00 per hundredweight. Veal was in somewhat better demand but held unchanged in price.

Butter --

Although butter supplies are heavy in the San Francisco wholesale market, demand has improved somewhat and top grades have advanced 1/2-cent per pound. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 64-1/2 to 67 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) is unchanged at a quotation to retailers of 63-1/2 to 64-1/2 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

Eggs --

In the wholesale egg market there are good supplies of all grades. Prices are unchanged from a week ago under a fairly good demand. Grade "A" Large are quoted to retailers at 42 to 43 cents per dozen in cartons; Grade "A" Mediums at 38 to 40 cents; and Grade "A" Small at 31 to 33 cents per dozen in cartons.

Poultry --

In the wholesale poultry market there are good supplies of broilers, fryers, and roasters, and ample supplies of hens. While there has been some resistance to higher prices on fryers and roasters, demand is moderately active. Prices are 1-cent per pound above a week ago on dressed fryers (all weights) roasters, and tom turkeys. All weights of Leghorn hens are selling 1-cent per pound below a week ago. Other classes are unchanged.

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